

## Claims

- 5 1. A turbocharger comprising a variable nozzle device (11, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31), and an exhaust housing (47) being mechanically and/or thermally decoupled therefrom.
2. A turbocharger according to claim 1, wherein said exhaust housing (47) is mounted directly to a center housing (1) carrying a shaft (3) with a turbine wheel (5), so that both housings  
10 (1, 47) define an inner space in which said variable nozzle device (11, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31) and said turbine wheel (5) are located.
3. A turbocharger according to claim 2, wherein said exhaust housing (47) comprises a gas inlet portion (53) attached to said center housing (1) and a gas outlet portion (63)  
15 encompassing with an axially extending clearance a gas outlet portion (65) of the variable nozzle device.
4. A turbocharger according to claim 3, wherein the gas inlet portion (53) of the exhaust housing (47) comprises a flange member (51) axially abutted via a sealing element (55) to  
20 the center housing (1) and mounted thereto by a fastening member (49).
5. A turbocharger according to claim 3 or 4, characterized by a sealing system (65, 67) for avoiding a gas leakage between the exhaust housing (47) and the variable nozzle device (11, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31).  
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6. A turbocharger according to claim 5, wherein the sealing system (65, 67) comprises a circumferential recess formed in said gas outlet portion (65) of the variable nozzle device and containing a piston ring (67), characterized by at least one further circumferential recess (69) formed in said gas outlet portion (63) of said exhaust housing and opened to said  
30 axially extending clearance between the gas inlet side of said exhaust housing and the piston ring (67).
7. A turbocharger according to one of claims 3 to 6, wherein said variable nozzle device (11, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31) comprises a circumferential arrangement of vanes (27) interposed  
35 between a nozzle ring (23) and an outer ring (15) integrally formed with a peripheral ring (13) fitted on said nozzle ring and coupled to said center housing (1).

8. A turbocharger according to claim 7, wherein said vanes (27) are pivotally supported on the nozzle ring (23), said nozzle ring being axially urged by the peripheral ring (13) against an annular disc member (45) supported on said center housing (1).
- 5 9. A turbocharger according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said gas inlet portion (53, 51) of the exhaust housing (47) encompasses with a further axially extending clearance (57) the peripheral ring (13) of said variable nozzle device.
- 10 10. A turbocharger according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said peripheral ring (13) is abutted against the same sealing element (55) via which the flange member (51) of the exhaust housing (47) is secured on the center housing (1).